

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 292958
ORIGIN ARA-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EAID, BL

SUBJECT: BOLIVIAN REQUEST FOR PL 480 TITLE I

1. ON DEC. 1, BORIS MARINOVIC, BOLIVIAN VICE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ALBERTO VALDEZ, BOLIVIAN SUB-SECRETARY OF PLANNING, JUAN CARIAGA, BOLIVIAN CHARGE IN WASHINGTON, AND RENE RIOS, BOLIVIAN COMMERCIAL ATTACHE, MET WITH ARA DEPUTY STEDMAN, OTHER DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES, AND A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO DISCUSS THE RECENT BOLIVIAN REQUEST FOR US WHEAT UNDER THE PL 480 TITLE I PROGRAM.

2. THE PURPOSE OF THE DISCUSSION WAS TO REINFORCE THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 STATE 292958

EARLIER BOLIVIAN WRITTEN REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM. MARINOVIC SAID THAT BOLIVIA HAD EXPERIENCED POOR WHEAT CROPS AND WAS IN NEED OF A SECURE SOURCE OF SUPPLY. HE ALSO MADE A STRONG PRESENTATION OF PLANNED USES FOR FUNDS GENERATED BY SALES OF THE PL 480 GRAIN. HE OUTLINED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS INVOLVING GRAIN STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES AND RURAL FARM-TO-MARKET ROAD SYSTEMS,

WHICH HE SAID COULD BEGIN RIGHT AWAY. HE SAID THAT DETAILS OF ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS ALREADY BEING PLANNED COULD BE WORKED OUT AS FUNDS FROM PL 480 SALES BECAME AVAILABLE.

3. STATE AND AGRICULTURE REPRESENTATIVES INFORMED THE BOLIVIANS THAT INITIAL TITLE I ALLOCATIONS HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE FOR MOST OF THE AVAILABLE FUNDS. THEY POINTED OUT THAT THERE IS A RESERVE OF APPROXIMATELY \$100 MILLION WHICH IS AVAILABLE FOR ALLOCATION, BUT, MUCH OF THAT HAD ALSO BEEN EARMARKED FOR OTHER EARLIER APPLICANTS. ANOTHER DIFFICULTY, THEY SAID, WAS THAT RISING PRICES FOR US AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES WERE ABSORBING PART OF THE \$100 MILLION. NEVERTHELESS, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE REPRESENTATIVE SAID HE FELT CONFIDENT THAT A REDUCED ALLOCATION FOR BOLIVIA OUT OF THE RESERVE FUND COULD BE MADE IN FY 78. HE LATER INDICATED TO STATE OFFICERS THAT SUBSEQUENT REQUESTS FOR INCREASED AMOUNTS FOR FOLLOWING YEARS COULD BE ENTERTAINED.

4. BOLIVIANS SAID THEY UNDERSTOOD DIFFICULTIES PRESENTED BY EARLIER COMMITMENTS. THEY DEPARTED ENCOURAGED BY THE POSSIBILITY OF AT LEAST A PARTIAL ALLOCATION FOR FY 78. CHRISTOPHER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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